



Linn County Medical Society - News You Can Use

Doctors Supporting
Doctors For 108 years

December 2011

Presidential Perspectives—Timothy Quinn, M.D.



On behalf of Linn County Medical Society members I joined representatives of the Iowa Medical Society for meetings in Washington DC with our policy makers in September. There were interesting discussions with Congressman Braley and Senator Grassley, and staff of Senator Harkin. The topics included SGR, GPCI, ACO's, and Pay for Performance. In regards to SGR and GPCI, these are predictable issues and to some degree foregone conclusions (google these if you are not familiar with the concepts—it is how we are disadvantaged in terms of reimbursement). I reinforced that even though SCR is unlikely to actually lead to marked reductions in our reimbursement, it is nonetheless impacting the way physicians view future capital investments. More importantly, it impacts the degree to which physicians are willing to take new Medicare patients. If you are familiar with the MedPac discussion, freezing/lowering physician reimbursement isn't the answer either.

I also presented clinical quality and cost information from our community as well as the MercyCare Physician Quality Initiatives. Congressman Braley and his staff literally had an eyebrow raising response to the quality comparison to Commercial Insurance and Medicare averages. This further reinforces what we already know- we are doing ground breaking work in this community.

Grassley expressed that the consistent feedback he is getting indicates that physicians find the ACO concept unmanageable. Physicians in our community tend to agree with this, and while the ACO concept may be untenable, the components of it including care management, IT solutions, and Quality Management of Populations will be critical to improvement of cost and quality in this nation. The consistent response regarding SGR was that it was unlikely to go away in one step, although the MedPac solution was an attempt to address cost. I look forward to further discussions and welcome your feedback on refining the message to our legislators.

Please monitor your email for legislative alerts and send your opinions to our legislators. It literally takes about 1 minute to complete. One of the aides to Senator Grassley told me that they receive more communiqués from Linn County Physicians than from any other county in the state (including the Des Moines area). If your email has changed, or we don't have it on file, please contact Laura at linncountymedicalsociety@infionline.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Quinn M.D., LCMS President



Members Celebrating Birthdays

December

2 Mary Eyanson, Joy Olson	19 Richard Zeaske
5 Ken Andersen, Brian Privett	21 Charles Kimura, Brian Randall
7 Mary Susan Pruzinsky, Ann Soenen	22 Martin Johnson, David Puk
8 John Hess	24 Robert Brimmer, David Basel
13 Steven Jacobs, Tim Quinn	26 Lee Birchansky
14 Jason Rexroth, Gordon Berg	28 Johanna Abernathy, Wook Lee
15 Mary Anne Nelson	31 Robert Barry, Shane Kasner

January

1 Scott Geisler	15 Steven Mindrup
3 Beth Bussewitz	20 Paul Schneider
5 Arleen Zahn-Houser	21 M. Naser Payvandi
6 Arthur Barnes, Todd Gothard, Daniel McGrail	24 John Herring
7 William Audeh, David Hart, Gina Perri	25 James Reinertson, Ahmed Abu Alfoul
9 Richard Stangler	26 Craig Dove
10 Jerry Rozeboom	27 David Muller
12 Roxanne Dunn, Logan Hoxie	28 Terry Parsons
	29 Keith Krewer

February

1 Donald Bomkamp, Keith Wright	12 Ali Safdar
2 Hosne Begum	15 Todd Langager, Hans Steine
5 Carlton Lake, Mark Zittergruen Kevin Carpenter, Bill Bennett	16 Scott Bemus
6 Jan Merfeld	17 Wayne Alberts, John Floyd
7 Richard Fiester, Bryan Netolicky	20 Merlin Osborn, Robert Silber, Michael Simison
8 Carrie Dykstra	21 Joseph Kennedy
9 Lileah Harris, Gary Schweiger, Whealen Koontz	22 William Neff
	27 John Koch



Help us welcome [new members](#):

Joseph Lesnik, M.D., Linn County Pediatrics
Brian Privett, M.D., Iowa Eye Center
Edan Yodfat, M.D., OB-GYN Linn Community Care

Best Wishes! *to Ralph Beckett, M.D. and Anne Voigts, M.D. as they retire from active practice on December 31. They have been LCMS members since 1982.*

Let's Keep In Touch

The new directory of physician home addresses and phone numbers is now available at the Medical Society office. This directory is available to all physicians. Stop by the LCMS office, 813 First Ave., SE (Masonic Library 2nd Floor) from 8a-4p M-F or call 365-2527.

Wondering about self-prescribing?

Physician self-prescribing or prescribing for family members has often been a question not easily answered. When is it ok, when isn't it? Kent Nebel of the Iowa Board of Medicine has provided us the following:

653 Iowa Administrative Code 23.1(7) makes the following conduct grounds for discipline against a physician.

23.1(7) *Indiscriminately or promiscuously prescribing, administering or dispensing any drug for other than lawful purpose includes, but is not limited to:*

a. Self-prescribing or self-dispensing controlled substances.

b. Prescribing or dispensing controlled substances to members of the licensee's immediate family.

(1) Prescribing or dispensing controlled substances to members of the licensee's immediate family is allowable for an acute condition or on an emergency basis when the licensee conducts an examination, establishes a medical record, and maintains proper documentation.

(2) Immediate family includes the physician's spouse or domestic partner and either of the physician's, spouse's, or domestic partner's parents, stepparents or grandparents; the physician's natural or adopted children or stepchildren and any child's spouse, domestic partner or children; the siblings of the physician or the physician's spouse or domestic partner and the sibling's spouse or domestic partner; or anyone else living with the physician.

Prescribing of non-controlled substances to those described above should be within your scope of practice, and appropriate medical records must be kept.

Plan to attend the **Medical Managers Holiday Luncheon** on December 12, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., CR Marriott.

The Medical Managers group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 8:00-9:00 am.

The next meeting will be January 10 in the Mercy Katz Conference Room.

Don't miss this opportunity to network with other practice managers and get the latest updates on current issues.

LCMS Board Works For Patient Safety

On behalf of the 500 physicians in Linn County, the LCMS Board of Directors will be meeting with Iowa Senators and Representatives on December 1. Chairing the meeting will be Craig Clark, M.D., J.D., LCMS Legislative Committee.

Reasons for this discussion: On October 31 the District Court for Polk County overturned administrative rules which authorized nurse practitioners to supervise fluoroscopy. We applaud this ruling. However, we are aware that the CRNA's will be pushing for legislation to override this judicial opinion.

We look forward to this time with local legislators to help them become familiar with the facts in the ruling prior to the start of the 2012 legislative session.

Pills and Drills

Keep May 16 open and plan to attend the 8th Annual Pills & Drills Charity Golf event. This exciting afternoon provides some great views from Hunter's Ridge Golf Course, friendly competition, and proceeds go to the free medical/dental clinics of Cedar Rapids. Get your foursomes ready.

Medical Scholarships

Fund raising is underway for the Medical Society Scholarship Fund.

Every year the contributions of area physicians provide medical students much needed tuition assistance.

Please remember this worthwhile fund when planning your annual giving.

Tax deductible contributions can be sent to the LCMS at 813 First Avenue SE.

Team Physician Needed

After 30 years as Jefferson High School's football team physician, Dr. Alan Robb has given it up. The position is open. It is unpaid, but they have always treated Dr. Robb very well. If you are interested, call Dr. Robb at 560-3572.

Mid Level Provider Needed

Specialist office is seeking a medical professional Physician Assistant/Nurse Practitioner to cover as a Locum Tenens for clinic. Approximately 4-6 weeks per year. Please inquire at 319-365-9146, ask for Rita.

Legislative Breakfast at the Capitol

The Certificate of Merit bill will be considered by the Iowa Senate during the 2012 session. It passed in the House last session. This bill would require an impartial medical expert to review the facts of a malpractice case before a lawsuit could proceed.

Licensure for "lay" midwives will also be debated this session. Please stay informed, sign up on the IMS Voter Voice, and be ready to discuss these issues with your local legislators.

The Polk County Medical Society has invited Linn County physicians to their Legislative Breakfast at the Iowa Capitol on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, from 7:30-9:00 am.

This event is always well attended by legislators from many counties. It is an opportunity for physicians to be at the table with those who decide issues that will impact your practice. Contact the LCMS if you plan to attend, 365-2527, or linncountymedicalsociety@infionline.net.

The Iowa Medical Society is planning the Physician's Day On The Hill for February 1 at 1:00 pm. More on this later.

Moving Ahead — LCMS — A Voice For All Physicians

The Affordable Care Act has impacted medicine with many changes and restrictions for your practice. Medicare will again cut physician reimbursement. Doctors are studying offered incentive programs and penalties. You're hearing about ACOs, EHR, CMS, PQRS, MOC, and DRGs. Much has changed. But the LCMS mission of Doctors Supporting Doctors is as strong as ever. The Linn County Medical Society has represented physicians, of all specialties and affiliations, since 1903.

You can help maintain this valuable organization for all physicians.

- Nominations are being accepted for the LCMS Board of Directors. The term begins in May 2012. This is an opportunity to represent the physician community in a meaningful way.

If you would like to submit a nomination, or want to be considered, please contact the LCMS office at 365-2527, or the Nominating Committee members **Dr. Jason Rexroth** and **Dr. Dwight Schroeder**. The LCMS Board meets on the first Thursday of each month from 5:15-6:30 p.m. to plan regular Society programs and activities.

- And don't forget that your LC Medical Society dues for 2012 are due by December 31, 2011. They are still 100% deductible. Thanks for your support.